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**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 5658, AS REPORTED****OFFERED BY MR. CASTLE OF DELAWARE** and *Mr. Hinojosa*  
*of Texas*

Add at the end of subtitle E of title V, the following

new section:

1 **SEC. 5 \_\_\_\_ . ENHANCING EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS TO IM-**  
2 **PROVE ACCESSIBILITY AND FLEXIBILITY FOR**  
3 **MEMBERS OF THE REGULAR AND RESERVE**  
4 **COMPONENTS.**

5 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of Defense may au-  
6 thorize the commander of a military installation to enter  
7 into one or more education partnership agreements with  
8 educational institutions in the United States for the pur-  
9 pose of—

10 (1) developing plans to improve the accessibility  
11 and flexibility of college courses available to eligible  
12 members of the Armed Forces, including reserve  
13 components, through educational opportunities like  
14 the Armed Forces Tuition Assistance and “Top-Up”  
15 programs;

16 (2) assisting with the application process for  
17 the Armed Forces Tuition Assistance and “Top-Up”  
18 programs and conducting outreach on military in-

1        stallations to raise awareness regarding educational  
2        opportunities available to such members;

3            (3) developing curriculum, distance education  
4        programs, and career counseling designed to meet  
5        the professional, financial, academic, and social  
6        needs of such members; and

7            (4) monitoring the rates of enrollment in college  
8        courses using the Tuition Assistance and "Top-Up"  
9        programs and assessing how resources may be spent  
10       more effectively to meet the educational needs of  
11       such members.

12        (b) COST.—Except as provided in this section, execu-  
13       tion of these partnership agreements shall be at no cost  
14       to the Government.

15        (c) PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT PROVISIONS.—Under  
16       a partnership agreement entered into with an educational  
17       institution under this section, the military installation—

18            (1) may provide office space and associated ad-  
19       ministrative, technical and overhead support;

20            (2) may reimburse educational institution per-  
21       sonnel for travel and incidental expenses performed  
22       in fulfillment of the partnership agreement; and

23            (3) may loan equipment to the institution for  
24       the purposes stated in subsection (a) and for up to  
25       five years duration in support of such agreement.

1 (d) TREATMENT OF PERSONS.—Persons performing  
2 services under the terms of a partnership agreement  
3 shall—

4 (1) not be entitled to any compensation from  
5 the United States except as provided for in sub-  
6 section (c);

7 (2) not be considered a Government employee  
8 under the National Security Personnel System or  
9 any other Federal employment system; and

10 (3) serve at the mutual convenience of the mili-  
11 tary installation and the educational institution.

12 (e) EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION DEFINED.—In this  
13 section, the term “educational institution” means accred-  
14 ited colleges, universities, and technical schools in the  
15 United States.

